

Transmitted Via Facsimile to (571) 273-8300 Hammonds Dkt. No. ML00H02/P-US (SPLG-4)

PATENT

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Remarks

Claims 1-13 and 31-38 are currently pending in the application. Claims 31-36 and 38 stand rejected. Claims 1-13 and 37 are allowed. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-13 and 37.

Claims 31, 33-36 and 38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Korte (*High-throughput replica optics*, Applied Optics, Vol. 27, No. 8) in view of Pichel (U.S. Patent 3,428,533) or Jochim (U.S. Patent 3,378,469). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claims 31 and 38 have been amended to recite a method of manufacturing a telescope mirror (21,22) comprising, among other steps, the step of "(e) attaching to the mirror body (25) a supporting structure (23) comprising at least one of a ring geometry (23a) and at least one actuator (23b) for adapting and correcting the geometry of the telescope mirror." Applicants respectfully submit that the cited prior art fails to describe or suggest such methods.

Independent claims 31 and 38 have been amended to recite the same step (e) as recited in claim 1, which recitation was added to claim 1 in Applicants' previous response, and which resulted in the allowance of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 31 and 38 are likewise now allowable over Korte in combination with Pichel or Jochim.

Claims 33-36 depend from independent claim 31. When the recitations of claims 33-36 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 31, Applicants submit that claims 33-36 are likewise patentable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons set forth above.

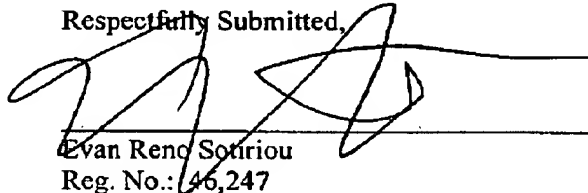
Claim 32 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Korte in view of Pichel or Jochim and further in view of George et al. (U.S. Patent 4,648,944) or Vaaler (U.S. Patent 4,786,376). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

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Claim 32 depends from independent claim 31, which is recited above. As discussed above, Korte in combination with Pichel or Jochim does not describe or suggest a method as recited in claim 31. Neither George et al. or Vaaler make up for the deficiencies of Korte, Pichel, and Jochim. Accordingly, when the recitations of claim 32 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 31, Applicants submit that claim 32 is likewise patentable over the combination of Korte, Pichel and Jochim with George et al. or Vaaler for at least the reasons set forth above.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the prior art neither anticipates nor renders obvious the claimed invention and the pending claims in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,



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